

## A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

### Lesson 24 - Period 3 - Part 6 - Application

***“The work of redemption is a work that God carries on from the fall of man to the end of the world”***

There are three main points of application that Edwards draws from what he has discussed so far. First, Edwards concludes, based upon what we have seen as we study church history it is proper to conclude that the \_\_\_\_\_ are indeed the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. This point can be supported by three subpoints.

- 1. The Christian religion has always been greatly \_\_\_\_\_** - *“It may be argued from that violent and inveterate opposition there has always appeared of the wickedness of the world against this religion. The religion that the church of God has professed from the first, has always been the same...The sum of both the Old Testament and New, is Christ and His redemption...So that the opposition which has been made to the church of God in all ages, has always been against the same religion, and the same revelation.”*

*“The violent and perpetual opposition that has ever been made by the corruption and wickedness of mankind against this church, is a strong argument of the truth of this religion, and this revelation, upon which this church has always been built...We may well and safely argue, that a thing is good, according to the degree of opposition in which it stands to evil, or the degree in which evil opposes it, and is an enemy to it.”*

*“That the church of God has always met with great opposition in the world, none can deny. This is plain by profane history as far as that reaches; and before that, divine history gives us the same account. The church of God, its religion and worship, began to be opposed in the time of Cain and Abel.”*

*“So that it is out of doubt, that this religion, and these Scriptures, have always been malignantly opposed in the world...the extreme violence, injustice, and cruelty, with which the church of God has been treated...seems to show the hand of malignant infernal spirits.”*

*“If the Scriptures be not the Word of God, and the religion of the church of Christ be not the true religion, then it must follow, that it is a most wicked religion; nothing but a pack of lies and abominable delusions, invented by the enemies of God. And if so, it is not likely that the enemies of God, and the wickedness of the world, would have maintained such a perpetual and implacable enmity against it.”*

- 2. Despite such \_\_\_\_\_, the Church and the Scriptures have \_\_\_\_\_** - *“That the church of God and the true religion, which has been so violently opposed, with so many endeavors to overthrow it- and which has so often been brought to the brink of ruin, through the greatest part of six thousand years- has yet been upheld, most remarkable shows the hand of God in favor of the church.”*

*“As to the old world before the flood, that was overthrown by a deluge of waters; but yet the church of God was preserved. Satan’s visible kingdom on earth was then once entirely overthrown; but the visible kingdom of Christ never has been overthrown.”*

*“Never was there so many and so potent endeavors to destroy anything else, as there has been to destroy the church. Other kingdoms and societies of men, which have appeared to be ten times as strong as the church, have been destroyed with a hundredth part of the opposition which the church of God has met with: which shows, that it is God who has been its protector. For it is most plain, that it has not upheld itself by its own strength. For the most part, it has been a very weak society.”*

*“If such a preservation of the church of God, from the beginning of the world hitherto, attended with such circumstances, is it not sufficient to show a divine hand in the favor of it, what can be devised that would be sufficient?”*

- 3. Those things that were \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture have come to be-** Edwards already showed how the prophecies in Scripture concerning Christ and the rise and fall of certain kingdoms came to pass. Now Edwards will use two other prophecies regarding things that would happen outside of sacred history that have come to be.

First, Lord promised that His church would \_\_\_\_\_ and for now 2000 years the church has indeed persevered even though it has faced intense opposition.

*“It is foretold that God’s covenant mercy to His church should continue forever; and so it has hitherto proved, though the church has passed through so many dangers...Now if this be not from God, and the Scriptures be not the word of God, and the church of Christ built on the foundation of this word be not of God, how could the persons who foretold this know it? For if the church were not of God, it was a very unlikely thing ever to come to pass. For they foretold great opposition and dangers, that other kingdoms should come to nought, and that the church should often be almost swallowed up; and yet the church should remain. Now how could they foresee so unlikely a thing but by divine inspiration?”*

Second, Edwards sees the rise of the \_\_\_\_\_ church as a scriptural fulfillment of the rise of Antichrist and much of what is spoken of in the book of Revelation.

The second main point of application that Edwards draws from this study of Church history is that we should understand the spirit of a true Christian is a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Seeing God has so ordered it in His providence, that His church should for so long a time be in a suffering state, yea, often in a state of extreme suffering, we may conclude, that the spirit of the true church is a suffering spirit, otherwise God never would have ordered for it so much suffering; for doubtless God accommodates the state and circumstances of the church to the spirit that He has given her. No wonder therefore that Christ so much inculcated upon His disciples that they must deny themselves, and take up their cross, if they would follow Him.”*

*“Let us inquire whether we are of such a spirit. How does it prove upon trial? Does it prove in fact that we are willing to deny ourselves, and renounce our own worldly interest, and to pass through the trials to which we are called in providence? Alas, how small are our trials, compared with those of many of our fellow-Christians in former ages!”*

*“Every true Christian has the spirit of a martyr, and would suffer as a martyr, if he were called to it in providence.”*

The third main point of application Edwards stresses based upon what we learn from a study of Church history is that we should be fully \_\_\_\_\_ of those things coming to pass which the Scriptures foretell as still being future.

*“All things are hitherto come to pass agreeable to the divine prediction. This should strengthen our faith in those promises, and encourage us, and stir us up to earnest prayer to God for the accomplishment of the great and glorious things which yet remain to be fulfilled.”*